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Attorney's Docket No. 003300-634

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:) **BOX: RCE**
Timo LAAKSO *et al.*) Group Art Unit: 1616
Application No.: 09/529,442) Examiner: R. DeWitty
Filed: April 13, 2000) Confirmation No.: 7079
For: ENCAPSULATION METHOD)

AMENDMENT AND REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 (RCE)

BOX RCE
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This Amendment constitutes a **REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 (RCE)**. This Amendment and Reply is believed to be fully responsive to the *final* Official Action mailed May 30, 2002 (Paper No. 6). A two-month extension of time has been requested and the corresponding fee paid extending the time period of response until October 30, 2002.

Prior to the continued examination of the above-identified application under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114, please enter the following amendments and consider the following remarks.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace claims 1 and 24 as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) A method of encapsulating an active substance in a biodegradable polymer, which comprises:

a) dissolving said biodegradable polymer in an organic solvent therefor;

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